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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2, INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

G2-PR

28 SEP 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE CHAIRMAN, INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Strategic Factors Affecting United States Security
Interests in Various World Areas

1. Recommend that the Intelligence Advisory Committee consider the desirability of preparing a National Intelligence Estimate to determine the factors of strategic importance in various world areas to the United States.

2. Suggested terms of reference for proposed estimate are attached as Tab "A".

A. R. BOLLING
Major General, GSC
A. C. of S., G-2

Incl
Tab "A" (in dup)

Document No. _____
Review of this document by CIA has
determined that

- ☐ CIA has no objection to release
☒ It contains information of CIA
interest that must remain
classified at TS S (C)
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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

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TAB "A"

STRATEGIC FACTORS AFFECTING UNITED STATES SECURITY INTERESTS IN VARIOUS WORLD AREAS

THE PROBLEM

To determine the factors of strategic importance in various world areas¹ to the United States; to assess the effect upon the strategic position of the United States of any change in the accessibility of the resources² of these areas to the United States; and to estimate time factors involved in developments governing the accessibility of said resources.

SCOPE

The project should examine each world area separately and consider its strategic importance to the United States vis-a-vis the Soviet bloc. The political stability of the area should be assessed and an estimate made as to whether the area is pro-West, pro-Communist, or pro-National to the extent of neutrality in event of global war. The project should also consider dangers, as respecting areas concerned, of the current international situation and possible developments therein; the probabilities that political (national and international), economic, and/or internal security factors, will cut off strategic resources from the Western World even though war may not occur; estimate the time factors involved in these developments, especially as they pertain to the United States security interests.

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

I. ECONOMIC

Are the economic resources of the area of importance to the United States? Discuss each area separately and each resource of importance specifically, under the following headings:

A. Natural resources:

1. Extent and availability
2. The degree to which the United States depends upon them
3. The degree to which the Soviets depends upon them

B. Agricultural

1. (Same as above)
2. (Same as above)
3. (Same as above)

-
- 1 World areas to be examined by this study are: a. Far East (Japan, Korea, Manchuria; Communist China, Formosa; Indochina, Thailand, Burma, Malaya; Philippine Islands, Indonesia); b. India-Pakistan; c. Near and Middle East; d. Africa; e. Latin America.
 - 2 To include economic, military and strategic (see Appendix I hereof for economic resources of essential interest to the United States and to the Soviets - to be prepared after IAC approval).

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C. Industrial resources:

1. (Same as above)
2. (Same as above)
3. (Same as above)

D. Self-Sufficiency

Is the area economically self-sufficient? If not, to what extent and upon what sources is it dependent?

E. General Economic Trends

1. Present trend³
2. Nature and extent if assistance required (if any)

II. MILITARY

Are the military resources of the area of importance to the United States? (Discuss each area separately).

A. The armed forces; strength, composition; combat effectiveness.

B. Manpower; surplus, if any:

1. Skilled
2. Unskilled

C. Military facilities:

1. Bases; naval, air.
2. Communications, rail and highway
3. Arsenals; capacity production

III. STRATEGIC-POLITICAL FACTORS

A. Natural defenses

B. Degree of vulnerability to attack

C. Current political and military commitments

D. Stability of the Governments

³ Discuss from point of current economic conditions, governmental plans and policies, and the probable effect on the general trend. Also include political-economic factors, such as aspirations for nationalization of key industries and raw material production facilities, which may adversely affect U. S. security interests in the area. Specify factors, countries, and, when pertinent, areas within countries, where U. S. economic security interests may be threatened. Project the trend as it may affect U. S. and U.S.S.R. interests.

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IV. CONCLUSIONS

Following a brief discussion of the current international situation, as affecting all of the areas concerned, and an estimate of when changes may be expected in each area insofar as the accessibility of its resources is concerned, determine the degree of strategic importance to the United States of each of the areas concerned. The conclusions should take into account not only the economic, military and political importance to the United States of the continuance of the availability to the United States of the resources of any area but also the importance to the United States of the denial of such resources to the Soviet Union.

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